

The Messenger

ESTABLISHED 1872.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.00 A YEAR.

OKOLONA, MISS., OCT. 1, 1905.

Five hundred Japanese were killed in a cyclone, or typhoon, in the Odawara district on the 28th.

The street cars of New Orleans have been tied up again since Sunday morning by a strike among the union men, and non-union men who attempt to take the places of the men out are badly treated.

The people of New York who are suffering from cold, begin to realize that such public utilities as the coal mines, should be owned by the state. Preachers are making such declarations from their pulpits.

The late Queen of Spain was married on the 29th to her master of the horse, Count de Escosura. The mother of the new king doubtless thinks there is no use for her living a lonely life since her son was endowed with the crown.

Emile Zola, the eminent French novelist, was found dead in his room on the morning of the 28th, supposed to have been asphyxiated by the fumes from a stove. His wife was also found in an unconscious condition, but is expected to recover.

A large number of rounders will be disappointed to learn that there is to be no Midway Plaisance at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. It is merely to be an amusement Boulevard, probably worse in many ways than any Midway ever offered in the past.

The high officials of the Frisco System have been spending a week looking over their lines in this section, and spent Saturday in Memphis, the guests of the Tennessee Club. They are an aggressive lot of gentlemen, and understand the railroad business thoroughly.

How strange that when politicians give any figures on the tariff question, they invariably take the steel industry as their text, a line of business of which only a few know anything and for less are interested. The things which enter into the common use of the farmer and citizenship generally are never touched.

It was General Hancock who was defeated for the presidency for making the remark that the tariff was a local issue, and yet every man in the country who is fair and in the least posted, will today admit that it is a local issue and works only in the interest of the few in one little section of the country. Free silver was a local issue also, only of interest to the mine owners, among whom very few reside in the United States.

King Edward has been thinking he was some pumpkin because the doctors whittled around in his internal machinery and did not kill him, but the United States does not propose to stand back and allow any old United Kingdom to thus lord it over us. President Roosevelt has returned to Washington from his proposed western tour, with the announcement that he was suffering from a serious rising on his leg, and an operation necessary. Several eminent physicians were called, and after lancing the boil, the President was consigned to his bed, and hourly bulletins are sent out now announcing the patient's condition. The latest is that he slept well, and is able to sit up. The condition of the wound made by the surgeons' knife is satisfactory. We had a boll on our left hind leg last week, but we just let the thing burst and went right along attending to business. The wound is eminently satisfactory.

The burning of the negro Clark, at Corinth Sunday afternoon in the presence of ten thousand people, was a most horrible act, yet the cold blooded murder of which he confessed, of Mrs. Whitfield, and for which two or three innocent men were held and were in danger of lynching almost at any hour, would seem to warrant the steps taken by the infuriated community. Clark, according to his own confession, went to the Whitfield home when the lady was there alone, getting ready to go to town, and demanded money of her which she told him she did not have about the house, and then he outraged her and afterward murdered her, cutting her frightfully with a razor. No suspicion seemed to rest upon Clark, but on his return home to his wife he told her, and she kept his secret until last Friday when she got drunk, and he gave her a good whipping, which so infuriated her that she told of his crime, and by Saturday night he was in the jail. Sunday morning the citizens of Corinth telegraphed all over the neighboring country that the wretch would be burned at four o'clock in the afternoon, and when that hour arrived the cremation took place in the presence of nearly if not quite ten thousand people.

THE ART OF STARTING.

The Personal Element Cuts Quite a Figure in Foot Racing.

Skilful starting, says Pearson's Magazine, like most instances of physical prowess, is a matter partly of natural aptitude, partly, in a foot race, of cultivation. Men differ in what may be called personal error; in the duration of the interval between the act of will and the translation of it into action. Some men have to aim further in front of a driven partridge than others because it takes them longer to pull their triggers. Similarly, one runner takes longer than another to set his limbs in motion; both hear the bang of the pistol at the same moment, but the one actually moves his legs, or jumps into his stride, appreciably the sooner. And personal error, in this sense, is found to vary from day to day in the same man, being distinctly more pronounced when he is stale or jaded than when he is fresh and fit.

No amount of cultivation will altogether remove this personal difference between individuals; but each may reduce his own error to his own minimum by continued practice of a right method. By an incessant repetition an action becomes so habitual that it is done without conscious volition. The feet of an expert dancer tread of themselves the complicated steps of a jig or hornpipe; and in a similar way a sprinter's limbs after due practice seem to start of their own accord at the sound of the pistol, the muscles of his legs seem to hear the bang direct.

An expert starter when in position on the mark, or when "set," as it is called, is in a concentrated, strained state from which the detonation releases him automatically; his highly educated muscles fall at once into the requisite actions, and knowing they will do so he can fix his whole attention upon reaching the tape. He will arrive there all the more quickly for having but one idea to govern his body.

SUPERSTITIOUS NORWEGIANS.

Their Forests, Mountains and Gorges Peopled with Fairies.

Like the Japanese, the Norwegians are very superstitious, and, as in Japan, the forests, the mountains and the gorges are peopled with fairies, says W. E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record-Herald. Nissen is the good fairy of the farmers. He looks after the cattle particularly, and if he is well treated they are healthy and the cows give lots of milk. To propitiate him it is necessary to put a dish of porridge on the threshold of the cow stable on Christmas morning. Whenever the family move this invisible being goes along with them and sits on the top of the loads. In haying time he always rides on the loads of hay, and the "bedstomoder" or grandmother in every farmhouse can tell the children dozens of interesting stories about the mischief or kindness of Nissen.

He is invariably represented in pictures of farm life; he appears on the illustrated advertisements of farm machinery; his figure is carved in wood, is sold at all the curiosity stores, and he appears as a prominent character in most of the fairy stories that deal with farm life. He is represented as a short, fat, bow-legged man, with big whiskers and long white hair, wearing a red hat like those worn by clowns in circuses. He usually appears in his shirt sleeves, with an open collar, a blue vest and knickerbockers upon his legs, which are as slim as those of a brownie. His circumference is far greater than his height and his head is almost as large as his body.

Noek is the fairy of the waterfalls and is a sort of merman. You never see more than half his body. He is very, very old, his hair and beard are long and white and his face is always pale and pensive. He carries a harp and plays to amuse the spirits in the waterfall. A statue of Ole Bull has recently been erected in his native city of Bergen. He stands upon a pedestal which rises from a fountain, and the water flows over the head and shoulders of a Noek at the base.

PROFESSOR'S READY WIT.

Chandler, of Columbia, Always Gets the Best of His Classes.

Prof. Chandler, of Columbia university, holds an enviable position of popularity in the minds of the alumni of that institution, perhaps, according to the New York Times, as much on account of his clever methods of turning aside student jokes as for any other reason. At the University club a few evenings ago in a group of Columbia men several anecdotes were told illustrative of Prof. Chandler's ability in this direction.

It seems that one day some disgruntled member of the chemistry

division reached the lecture-room in good season and sought to create amusement by writing on the blackboard in a bold hand: "Chandler is an ass." This had the desired effect, and suppressed chuckling could be heard around the room when the professor entered a few moments later at the beginning of his lecture hour.

"As he walked to his desk," continued the man who was telling the story, "the blackboard inscription caught his eye. Most of us thought he would erase it—but that wouldn't have been Chandler. He scarcely hesitated a second, but walked over to the board and in a hand if anything bolder than the original added the word 'Driver.' The effect was instantaneous. A roar of laughter greeted the clever touch, and Chandler had not only gotten out of an awkward predicament, but had at the same time added to his capital of popularity."

This incident reminded another of the Columbia men of the time when somebody had carried into the chemistry lecture-room a bottle of vile-smelling liquid concocted specially for the purpose in the laboratory. The atmosphere in the room when Prof. Chandler entered was well-nigh unbearable. He detected the odor almost before he had crossed the threshold, and, turning abruptly, locked the door and put the key in his pocket. Then, walking to the desk, he took his seat without the slightest show of annoyance and remarked: "Gentlemen, we will enjoy this to-morrow."

QUEER ECONOMICS.

Difficulties Met by Engineering Enterprise in China.

If a railway was proposed, and it was shown a Chinese mandarin that it might earn \$500,000 per year, he would immediately exclaim that you proposed to rob China of half a million per annum. You might point out that there was no robbery about it; that people need not use the railway unless they liked, and could, if they preferred, travel or send their goods by boat in the old way. "That is just what I say," the mandarin would reply, "you are robbing the boatmen." You might next point out that a large proportion of the earnings would be paid in wages, and this was, perhaps, your most effective argument; but even here the mandarin would assert that you were taking your employees from agriculture, which was, he would claim, much better for the nation. As for the money paid for materials imported, that, the mandarin would hold, was lost to the country. You might point out that the money need not necessarily leave the country, being paid into a bank, and being finally exported in the shape of silks, tea, etc., but the mandarin would reply: "That is just what I say. You steal the money in the first place, and then use it to buy silks and tea, which had much better stay in the country." Finally, you would try to get round him in another way. The mandarins holding the most important positions, necessarily involving heavy expenditure, are paid the most inadequate salaries, say \$150 per annum. A mandarin must therefore take fees; he does not call them bribes, or consider them so. You set to work to make the desired arrangement in the best way you can, and the mandarin does the best he can for himself. As a foreigner, you are considered a rich man, and thus fair game. The mandarin, if honest and patriotic, wants to do the best he can for his country, but interprets this inversely, viz., by making things as bad as possible for the other side. He cannot believe that a bargain may be profitable to both parties. In fact, the more honest the mandarin the more difficult it is to put the business through.—Engineering.

What He Does Care About.

Many a man doesn't care what a tailor charges for clothes—just so he charges it.—Chicago Daily News.

The Limit of Insignificance.

Some people amount to so little that other people refuse to gossip about them.—Acheson Globe.

A Vigorous Appetite.

J. Pierpont Morgan, according to an exchange, eats corn beef and cabbage. That probably constitutes his lunch, says the Chicago Record. For breakfast he has a railroad and for dinner one large, well-done steel mill.

Automobiles for England's Army. The British war office has decided to form a volunteer corps of motor vehicle operators. It, however, expressed a willingness to accept the services of individual automobilists in case of an emergency.

The Best Prescription for Malaria. Chills and Fever is a bottle of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. It is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. No Cure, No Pay. Price, 50c.

GOOD LIVING.

Quite often results in bad health, because what is termed "good living" is usually the gratification of the palate without reference to the nutrition of the body.

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FACTS. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send at once stamps for the book in paper covers, or 31 stamps for the cloth-bound volume. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

The State Historian, or keeper of the archives of the state, at Jackson has received a letter from Charlston Clark, in Washington, D. C., advising him that the "Mississippi Society," recently organized at the National Capitol, was ready to go to work. Mr. Clark writes as secretary of the society, and says that the objects of the society are as much historical as anything else, and that they are anxious to cooperate with the department of archives and history in the collection and preservation of valuable historical data. The society was organized with a splendid membership, and was addressed by Senator Money. Mr. Clark states that the members are enthusiastic and eager to aid in the historical work. In reply to this letter Mr. Rowland advised Secretary Clark that the department here would be glad to cooperate with the society. He also informed the secretary that nearly all of the earlier archives of the state of Mississippi, the papers relating to the earlier territorial history and the correspondence of the territorial governors is on file in Washington. Director Rowland suggests that the Mississippi society should at once go to work on this data and prepare from it monographs of the territorial governors and other valuable rescripts to be filed in the department of archives and history.

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